

Docket No. 740105-81
Serial No. 10/010,155
Page 2

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fixation element for an implantable microphone, wherein the fixation element comprises an essentially cylindrical portion adapted to be inserted into a bore which crosses a wall of the auditory canal of a user, said cylindrical portion, at least in an implanted state of the fixation element having an axial length corresponding to the axial length of said bore, and surrounding an outer circumferential portion of a housing part of the microphone, which housing part is provided with a sound receiving member, wherein said cylindrical portion includes at least one elastic region of increased diameter that is located at least in an intermediate region of its axial length, said elastic region contacting, in the implanted state of the fixation element, a wall of said bore at least in an intermediate region of its axial length and providing, by elastic restoring forces, for a friction which is sufficiently high to fix said cylindrical portion in at least one of the two axial directions of said bore; and wherein a closed end portion is provided at an end of the cylindrical portion.

2. (Original) The fixation element as claimed in claim 1, wherein said region of increased diameter is defined by at least one sealing member which is adapted to sealingly contact the wall of the bore upon said cylindrical portion having been inserted into the bore.

3. (Original) The fixation element as claimed in claim 2, comprising at least two of such sealing members which are axially spaced from each other.

4. (Currently Amended) A fixation element for an implantable microphone, wherein the fixation element comprises an essentially cylindrical portion adapted to be inserted into a bore which crosses a wall of the auditory canal of a user, said cylindrical portion, at least in an implanted state of the fixation element having an axial length corresponding to the axial length of said bore, and surrounding an outer circumferential portion of a housing part of the microphone, which housing part is provided with a sound receiving member, wherein said cylindrical portion includes at least one elastic region of increased diameter that is located at least in an intermediate region of its axial length, said elastic region contacting, in the implanted state of the fixation element, a wall of said bore at least in an intermediate region

Docket No. 740105-81

Serial No. 10/010,155

Page 3

of its axial length and providing, by elastic restoring forces, for a friction which is sufficiently high to fix said cylindrical portion in at least one of the two axial directions of said bore; wherein said region of increased diameter is defined by at least one sealing member which is adapted to sealingly contact the wall of the bore upon said cylindrical portion having been inserted into the bore; and ~~The fixation element as claimed in claim 2,~~ wherein the restoring forces of the at least one sealing member are sufficient to prevent movement of the fixation element towards the side of the wall of the auditory canal remote from the skin of the auditory canal.

5. (Original) The fixation element as claimed in claim 4, wherein the outer circumference of the at least one sealing member, when disposed outside of said bore, is larger than the inner circumference of said bore.

6. (Currently Amended) A fixation element for an implantable microphone, wherein the fixation element comprises an essentially cylindrical portion adapted to be inserted into a bore which crosses a wall of the auditory canal of a user, said cylindrical portion, at least in an implanted state of the fixation element having an axial length corresponding to the axial length of said bore, and surrounding an outer circumferential portion of a housing part of the microphone, which housing part is provided with a sound receiving member, wherein said cylindrical portion includes at least one elastic region of increased diameter that is located at least in an intermediate region of its axial length, said elastic region contacting, in the implanted state of the fixation element, a wall of said bore at least in an intermediate region of its axial length and providing, by elastic restoring forces, for a friction which is sufficiently high to fix said cylindrical portion in at least one of the two axial directions of said bore; wherein said region of increased diameter is defined by at least one sealing member which is adapted to sealingly contact the wall of the bore upon said cylindrical portion having been inserted into the bore; and ~~The fixation element as claimed in claim 2,~~ wherein the at least one sealing member is a sealing lip.

7. (Previously Presented) A fixation element for an implantable microphone, wherein the fixation element comprises an essentially cylindrical portion adapted to be inserted into a

Docket No. 740105-81
Serial No. 10/010,155
Page 4

bore which crosses a wall of the auditory canal of a user, said cylindrical portion, at least in an implanted state of the fixation element surrounding an outer circumferential portion of a housing part of the microphone, which housing part is provided with a sound receiving member, wherein said cylindrical portion includes at least one elastic region of increased diameter, said elastic region contacting, in the implanted state of the fixation element, a wall of said bore and providing, by elastic restoring forces, for a friction which is sufficiently high to fix said cylindrical portion in at least one of the two axial directions of said bore; wherein said region of increased diameter is defined by at least one sealing lip which is adapted to sealingly contact the wall of the bore upon said cylindrical portion having been inserted into the bore; and wherein the at least one sealing lip is adapted to fold in the direction of the side remote from the skin of the auditory canal when the cylindrical portion is inserted into the bore.

8. (Previously Presented) A fixation element for an implantable microphone, wherein the fixation element comprises an essentially cylindrical portion adapted to be inserted into a bore which crosses a wall of the auditory canal of a user, said cylindrical portion, at least in an implanted state of the fixation element surrounding an outer circumferential portion of a housing part of the microphone, which housing part is provided with a sound receiving member, wherein said cylindrical portion includes at least one elastic region of increased diameter, said elastic region contacting, in the implanted state of the fixation element, a wall of said bore and providing, by elastic restoring forces, for a friction which is sufficiently high to fix said cylindrical portion in at least one of the two axial directions of said bore; wherein said region of increased diameter is defined by at least one sealing member which is adapted to sealingly contact the wall of the bore upon said cylindrical portion having been inserted into the bore; and wherein the at least one sealing member, at the side thereof facing the skin of the auditory canal, is tapered towards the skin of the auditory canal.

9. (Currently Amended) The fixation element as claimed in claim 2, ~~wherein a first one of said sealing members is~~ further comprising a sealing flange disposed at the end of the cylindrical portion which, in the implanted state, faces the skin of the auditory canal and which is located at an end of the cylindrical portion that is opposite said closed end portion.

Docket No. 740105-81
Serial No. 10/010,155
Page 5

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The fixation element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~cylindrical portion is connected to~~ closed end portion is a flange portion of increased diameter, said flange portion, in the implanted state, contacting the side of the wall of the auditory canal remote from the skin of the auditory canal.

12. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cylindrical portion is provided, in a central region thereof, with a circumferentially extending bulging which, in the implanted state of the fixation element, is adapted to engage a correspondingly circumferentially extending recess in the wall of the bore.

13. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the engagement of the bulging with the recess provides for fixation of the microphone.

14. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the bulging is bead-shaped.

15. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cylindrical portion is connected to a flange portion which is adapted to contact, in the implanted state, the side of the wall of the auditory canal remote from the skin of the auditory canal.

16. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cylindrical portion is provided at one an end thereof that is opposite said closed end portion with a circumferentially extending, elastic, lip member which, in the implanted state of the fixation element, is adapted to rest in a chamfer provided at the end of the bore facing the skin of the auditory canal, the lip member being structured so that elastic restoring forces acting thereon are sufficient to prevent the fixation element from moving in the direction of the side of the wall of the auditory canal which is remote from the skin of the auditory canal.

Docket No. 740105-81
Serial No. 10/010,155
Page 6

17. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 16, wherein the lip member projects rearwardly with respect to the direction of introduction of the cylindrical portion into the bore.

18. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 17, wherein the outer diameter of the cylindrical portion is reduced in the region adjacent to the lip member to facilitate folding back of the lip member during introduction into the bore.

19. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~the cylindrical portion is provided at the other end thereof with~~ wherein the closed end portion comprises a flange member which, in the implanted state, contacts the side of the wall of the auditory canal which is remote from the skin of the auditory canal.

20. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cylindrical portion is defined by a sleeve portion of a fixing member, and wherein a stud of a main member is adapted to be inserted into said sleeve portion, said stud enclosing the housing part which is provided with the sound receiving member.

21. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member is designed for introduction into the bore from the side remote from the wall of the auditory canal.

22. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the inner diameter of the sleeve portion increases in the direction of both ends of the sleeve portion.

23. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 22, wherein the inner side of the sleeve portion is conical at both end regions thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 23, wherein the conical regions meet each other in the central region of the sleeve portion.

Docket No. 740105-81
Serial No. 10/010,155
Page 7

25. (Withdrawn) The fixation element as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member is reinforced by a circumferentially extending elastic angle member which extends in both the sleeve portion and the flange member.

26-60. (Cancelled)